REMARKS

The specification has been amended on p. 1 to complete the citation thereat to a concurrently filed application.

This Amendment is accompanied by formal drawings.

Claims 1-56 have been canceled and new claims 57-79 have been added.

The new claims are directed to an important aspect of the disclosed method and apparatus described, for example, beginning at p. 20, line 5 of the specification.

The invention relates to packet networks that offer different classes of service to subscribers. In particular, applicants have recognized that it is advantageous in such a network to determine a particular mix of (for example) average traffic rates that will be achieved for the various classes of service, at least during times of traffic congestion, and then configure network parameters in such a way that that particular mix is achieved. In that way, certain design goals for the network can be achieved.

It is important to note that determining traffic rates for different classes of service is not the same as determining bandwidth allocations for those services. In particular, it is well known that particular amounts of bandwidths can be allocated to particular classes of traffic using, for example, an appropriate scheduling mechanism, such as Weighted Fair Queuing, wherein packets whose class has been allocated more bandwidth are placed in a queue that the router "services" more often. However, it is also well known that the actual traffic rates—i.e., the actual number of bytes per second—of the traffic of the various classes can be quite different from the allocated bandwidth. This is due to the bursty nature of packet traffic.

In accordance with the invention defined in claims 57-79, applicants have recognized that in order to achieve desired network goals, it is desirable to first determine what mix of average traffic rates among the traffic classes will, in fact, achieve that behavior. In the disclosed embodiment, the desired network behavior is a set of packet loss criteria that will achieve certain relationships among the various

classes of traffic. Once having determined what the mix of average traffic rates should be in order to achieve (in the illustrative embodiment) the desired set of packet loss criteria, the inventive technique then configures network parameters in such a way as to achieve the desired traffic mix and, thus, to achieve the desired set of packet loss criteria. Among the configured parameters may be, for example, the amount of bandwidth allocated to one or more of the classes, such as the Virtual Leased Line class in the illustrative embodiment.

Relative to the foregoing, the examiner's attention is directed to claims 57 - 59, 68 and 70. The other claims in the application are directed to various aspects of a particular set of four packet loss design criteria that applicants' have determined can be used to implement an advantageous combination of various traffic classes— illustratively Virtual Leased Line, Assured and Basic. Those four criteria are set forth in paragraphs labeled 1, 2, 3 and 4 on pp. 20-21 of the specification. For the examiner's convenience, and not intended to limit the scope of the claims as presented, the following table shows how various claims in the application relate to at least certain aspects of those four criteria:

Design Criterion	Claims
1	60, 61, 72, 74, 76
2	62, 63, 72, 73
3	64, 75, 77
4	65, 66, 78, 79

It is submitted that none of the cited prior art shows or suggests the subject matter of the claims now in the application, and reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 01/04/2005